

to the Consumer Bankruptcy Protection Act. We hope we will get cloture on that. Because of objections from Senator KENNEDY of Massachusetts, we had to file cloture on a motion to proceed. If we get cloture on that, then we would move immediately to cloture on the bill itself, if necessary. But I hope we get cloture on the motion to proceed. Then we can work out a way to consider this legislation and Senators would have a chance or chances to offer amendments, if they would like to.

This could be a busy week. It could be a productive week. We also will probably file cloture sometime this week, perhaps Wednesday, on the child custody bill, but we will make that decision as we see how the week is proceeding and progressing. We will make that call probably Wednesday.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire). Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business.

WEAPONS INSPECTIONS IN IRAQ

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, last Thursday the Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees held a joint hearing to hear testimony from a courageous and dedicated American—Major Scott Ritter. Major Ritter began his opening statement by saying,

Last week I resigned my position with UNSCOM out of frustration because the U.N. Security Council, and the United States, as its most significant supporter, were failing to enforce the post-Gulf War resolutions designed to disarm Iraq. I sincerely hope that my actions might help to change things . . .

For nearly three hours, Major Ritter responded to Senators' questions, describing how U.S. policies in support of United Nations Security Council resolutions were not being honestly implemented. He also expressed his views regarding the dangers associated with Iraq's continuing pursuit of weapons of mass destruction and how this Nation's victory in the Persian Gulf war was being squandered.

Major Ritter served as an intelligence officer in the Marine Corps during the Persian Gulf War to liberate Kuwait from Iraq. He became a United Nations inspector in 1991 and acted under international law created by the United States and the United Nations. His job as an inspector was to plan and conduct inspections to eliminate illegal weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Major Ritter was deeply dedicated to his duties. He explained that his duty as a weapons inspector represented a vital continuation of what many Americans had fought and died for during the Gulf War. Finding and destroying these dangerous weapons is critically important to the United States and our allies. These weapons of mass destruction could one day be used

again by Saddam Hussein to attack his neighbors, dominate the region and threaten vital interests of the United States. Major Ritter was dedicated to reducing the threat from such weapons. He earned a reputation as a tough, demanding inspector. Saddam Hussein feared his perseverance and tried to get him removed from UNSCOM and Iraq. I regret that he has resigned. I felt better knowing Major Ritter was on the job. However, Major Ritter found that he was repeatedly and systematically hindered from performing his duties. The very laws he was asked to enforce were not now being supported by the U.N. Security Council nor his own government.

Major Ritter's resignation from his position as an UNSCOM inspector was a selfless and patriotic act. However, his resignation and the reason for his resignation deserve our immediate attention and action. I hope that his personal sacrifice will spur the Congress and the Administration to act with the same courage and urgency as Major Ritter.

During the hearing, Major Ritter was asked all the most difficult questions to challenge his judgment and veracity. His challengers were unsuccessful. He simply told the truth, and the truth is a National embarrassment. Although Major Ritter had the courtesy not to say it, his message was clear. "Congress, I have done my job. It is now time to do yours." Our job in Congress requires the same courage Major Ritter displayed last week and for the past nine years as a weapons inspector for the United Nations. I am deeply disappointed that such a brave and bright young American was forced into choosing to resign from his duties because of his principles. His actions clearly send us a message. "This Nation's actions must be consistent with its policies."

I believe that our Nation and the world are far less safe as a result of Saddam Hussein's programs of weapons of mass destruction. We must insist that UNSCOM be allowed to do its job. We in government must say what we mean, and do as we say. We have not been doing this recently in our foreign and national defense policies.

Mr. President, it is now Congress' responsibility to ensure that this happens.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I understand that my Democratic leader has time, and I wish to use some of that time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, we are in morning business until 12:30. The Democrat leader has time until 11:30 a.m.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask to address the Chamber without time restraint.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC MORALITY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I hope all my colleagues had a good Labor Day at home with their constituents. I want to say that I had the real pleasure of being with hundreds of people all over the great State of California with the Lieutenant Governor this Labor Day. And it was very uplifting to be with the people who are moving our country forward, because every day they get up and put one foot in front of the other, and they work, they take care of their families, and they build this country.

So it was, indeed, a very good day, and I think a day that gave a lot of us perspective as to why we are here and what our real interests should be in terms of making sure that this economic expansion continues, and that every child, regardless of station, has a chance at the American dream.

Mr. President, last week, Senator LIEBERMAN made a very thoughtful speech on the Senate floor in which he expressed his "deep disappointment and personal anger" concerning the President's improper behavior.

Senator LIEBERMAN then laid out the process by which the Senate can go on record in an official expression of disapproval.

When I was asked how I felt about that, I expressed agreement with Senator LIEBERMAN and with his understanding of the options that are before this body.

I would like to reiterate today what I have said about this matter since January. At that time I put my faith in the process, which I said would lead to the truth. The process is in fact leading to the truth, and the process is continuing.

In 1983, when I served in the House of Representatives, we had such a process in place when I voted to censure two colleagues—one a Democrat and one a Republican—for relationships that involved interns; we had a process in place in 1990, again, when a House colleague was reprimanded for his conduct.

Unfortunately, we did not have such a process in place in 1991, when a Supreme Court nominee was about to be confirmed with not so much as a look at allegations of sexual harassment. And in 1995, the integrity of the Senate process was being compromised to keep such charges by 18 women secret, rather than following the normal course of open public hearings. We also learned that the military routinely ignored similar complaints.

So despite the difficulty of all of those incidents—and they were all very difficult—I am proud that many women in Congress have worked to make sure that improper relationships in the